



2121 #6
PATENT
0020-4944P

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: MATSUURA, et al. Conf.: 3364

Appl. No.: 10/024,294 Group: 2121

Filed: December 21, 2001 Examiner: UNASSIGNED

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Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

April 4, 2002

Sir:

Under the provisions of MPEP § 2001.06(b), the Examiner is
hereby advised of the following co-pending U.S. Application(s):

<u>Appl. No.</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Group</u>
09/805,164	March 14, 2001	2183
09/833,653	April 13, 2001	2183
09/846,301	May 2, 2001	2183

The subject matter contained in the above-listed co-pending
U.S. application(s) may be deemed to relate to the present
application, and thus may be material to the prosecution of this
instant application.

Copies of cited U.S. patent application(s) (specification,
claims, and the drawings) or copies of the portion of the

application which caused it to be cited, including any claims directed to that portion are attached hereto.

The materials in the envelope are considered trade secrets and are being submitted for consideration under MPEP § 724.

The above-listed co-pending application(s) is(are) not to be construed as prior art. By bringing the above-listed application(s) to the attention of the Examiner, Applicant(s) do(does) NOT waive any confidentiality concerning the above-listed co-pending application(s) or this application. See MPEP § 101. Furthermore, if said application(s) should not mature into patents, such application(s) should be preserved in secrecy under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 122 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.14.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fee required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By


Terrell C. Birch, #19,382

as
TCB/CTB/lab
0020-4944P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000